

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 TRSE-00

/090 W

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R 020645Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1052

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZANZIBAR 0081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TZ XF

SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF PLO OFFICE IN ZANZIBAR

NAIROBI FOR RSO

1. CONSULATE HAS LEARNED THAT PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE MOHAMMED EL NASR HAS ARRIVED IN ZANZIBAR AND SHORTLY WILL BE OPENING UP PLO OFFICE HERE. EL-NASR, WHO REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN DETAILED TO PLO OFFICE IN DAR ES SALAAM SINCE LATE 1974, ARRIVED ON MARCH 28 AND IS CURRENTLY HOUSED AT BWAWANI HOTEL UNTIL PERMANENT RESIDENCE IS MADE AVAILABLE BY ZANZIBAR AUTHORITIES. WE EXPECT PLO TO ENJOY SAME OFFICIAL BUT NON-CONSULAR STATUS THAT FRELIMO OFFICE HERE HAS HAD SINCE AT LEAST 1972.

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2. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE: INFORMED AND USUALLY

RELIABLE SOURCE HAS ADVISED CONSULATE THAT EL-NASR IS OF LEBANESE EXTRACTION AND WAS IN BEIRUT PRIOR TO BEING SENT TO TANZANIA. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE, ALSO LEBANESE IN ORIGIN, WHO SHORTLY EXPECTED TO RETURN TO BEIRUT TO GIVE BIRTH TO COUPLE'S FIRST CHILD. EL-NASR IS MAN OF MEDIUM HEIGHT AND SLENDER BUILD, AND APPEARS TO BE IN '30S. CONSULATE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ADDRESSEES CAN FURNISH.

3. COMMENT: ESTABLISHMENT OF PLO OFFICE IS CONSISTENT WITH TANZANIA'S AND FIRST VP JUMBE'S OWN PRO-ARAB, ANTI-ISRAELI STAND. DECISION PROBABLY SHOULD BE SEEN AS LOGICAL FOLLOW-ON TO JUMBE'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP OF DECEMBER 1974, BUT THERE IS POSSIBILITY, DIFFICULT TO ASSESS, THAT THERE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN ELEMENT OF PRESSURE FROM MAINLAND ON THIS. ZANZIBAR FEELINGS ABOUT ARABS REMAIN AMBIVALENT AND CONSULATE HAS IDEA THAT PLO PRESENCE, WHILE BEING WELCOMED FOR ITS CURRENT POLITICAL AND SYMBOLIC VALUE, WILL BE KEPT ON FAIRLY TIGHT LEASH. WE SHALL BE WATCHING AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE FOR ANY SIGNS THAT WE ARE WRONG ON THIS. MACFARLAN
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